

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

**Wednesday, March 5, 1997/Phalgun 14, 1918 (Saka)**

*The Lok Sabha met at One Minute Past  
Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir, please give a chance to the back-benches today.

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. It is the Prime Minister's Question day today and the Prime Minister is not present in the House. The first six questions are to be replied by the Prime Minister. It has been the convention of the House that the Prime Minister attends the House compulsarily on the question day pertaining to him.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order during Question Hour.

AN HON. MEMBER : There is no senior Minister here.

MR. SPEAKER : Do not worry; there are senior members here.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### Shortage of Kerosene Oil

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\*161. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :  
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) whether several States are facing acute shortage of kerosene oil;

(b) if so, the actual demand and supplies made month-wise during the last year to each State/Union Territory;

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to remove the shortages; and

(d) the quantity and value of kerosene oil imported during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) to (d) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

### Statement

(a) to (c) Kerosene is a deficit product in the country and more than 40% of our requirements are met by imports. Allocation of Kerosene to the States is made on the basis of historicals, i.e. past allotment and consumption plus permissible increase against additional availability. Requests are received from the State Governments for additional allocation from time to time. However, on account of constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy involved, it is not possible to meet the full demand of the States. There is heavy subsidy on kerosene, which has been growing over the years and is more than Rs. 5/- per litre at present totalling presently to more than Rs. 6000 crores per annum. Nevertheless, a 3% increase has been given in the allocation during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 over the previous years for the country as a whole. The States/UTs with lower per capita availability of kerosene have been given higher increases and vice versa. LPG is also being supplied in all the States. Retail distribution of kerosene is the responsibility of the State Governments. After whole-sale allocation to the States, the concerned State Governments make allocation for different districts and have fixed their own norms of supply per ration card in urban and rural areas. However, on account of heavy subsidy on kerosene and consequent difference in prices of kerosene and diesel, there is heavy diversion of kerosene, causing scarcity for general consumers.

Full supply of kerosene as per allocation has been made to all the States. The State-wise allocation and releases of kerosene during 1995-96 are given in the Annexure.

(d) The Quantity and value of kerosene imported during the last three years are given below :-

Year	Qty. (MMT)	Value (US \$ Million)
1993-94	3.667	692.06
1994-95	3.889	699.06
1995-96 (Provisional)	4.484	889.07

### Annexure

*State-wise allocation and releases of  
Kerosene during 1995-96*

(Figs. in MT)

States/UTs	Allocation	Release
Haryana	159468	157730
Himachal Pradesh	42228	42662

States/UTs	Allocation	Release
Jammu & Kashmir	85536	85790
Punjab	328932	330183
Rajasthan	327344	321767
Uttar Pradesh	1087462	1083035
Chandigarh	21132	19640
Delhi	240924	242210
Assam	255232	257009
Bihar	606924	606157
Manipur	21638	22302
Meghalaya	16092	16057
Nagaland	11422	11461
Orissa	211452	210974
Sikkim	7632	7962
Tripura	23112	22969
West Bengal	757987	759585
Arunachal Pradesh	9576	9574
Mizoram	6360	6392
Andman & Nicobar	4632	4588
Gujarat	806280	808443
Maharashtra	1527648	1526733
Goa	27408	28371
Diu	1488	1178
Daman	1488	1471
· Dadar & N. Haveli	3144	3119
Madhya Pradesh	482555	487978
Andhra Pradesh	621656	614053
Karnataka	484690	482715
Kerala	287167	290620
Tamil Nadu	675276	673495
Pondicherry	15012	14424
Lakshadweep	888	93

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : The situation regarding allocation of kerosene in Gujarat is very critical. There is a law and order problem every time, creating difficulties. There are long queues in the cities in these circumstances.

Moreover, Gujarat has a very sizeable population of tribals. There is a long coastline where even the fishermen require kerosene. The requirement of Gujarat is 1,02,111 kg as against which only 87,000 kg of kerosene is being given. Will the hon. Minister be kind enough to give an assurance to give an additional increase in the quota of Gujarat ? The Chief Minister has also requested the Prime Minister twice. In spite of that no result has come.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : As far as Gujarat is concerned, the per capita allocation made during 1996-97 is 19.71 and for 1997-98 it is 19.91 kgs. per annum. The allocation to be made during 1997-98 will be 8,22,339 tonnes. The monthly allocation will be 68.528 tonnes. The national average is 4.41 kg. per capita per annum and Gujarat is getting 19.91 kg per annum. It is already more than the national average.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is fact that on the one hand the Government of India is giving Rs. 5 as subsidy for kerosene and on the other hand, the private parties which are importing kerosene at the Kandla Port, are taking advantage of the less allocation made through the Government ? The price which was prevailing for the private importers in June was Rs. 7500 and they raised it to Rs. 9500, an increase of Rs. 2,000. Why is the Government giving the benefit to such profit-making private people ? Either we have to import more kerosene or we have to control the prices of the private importers.

May I know from the hon. Minister as to why the Kandla prices are being allowed to be increased arbitrarily in the absence of the kerosene which is available from the Government ?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, we are encouraging private marketeers and they are independent to determine their own market. prices. We are not having any control over these private marketeers.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Sir, that is not my question. My question is that when less allocation is given to the States, the benefit goes to the private importers at Kandla. From the rate of Rs. 7,500 per kilo litre in June, they raised it to Rs. 9,500 in the month of December. Why should we allow the private parties to exploit like this ? If the hon. Minister says that he has no control over private importers, then whose interests are we serving ?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Actually, we are not giving less allocations to Gujarat. In fact, over and above the national average of 11 kg. per capita per annum, Gujarat is getting 19.71 kg. per capita per annum in 1996-97. So, the allocation to Gujarat State is 19.71 kg. per capita per annum.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : My question remains un-replied.

MR. SPEAKER : The fact remains that Gujarat is getting above the national average. That is what the Minister is saying.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : My question is about the private people being allowed to make profits at the cost of the people. The hon. Minister is silent on this.

SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that there is a heavy diversion of kerosene. May I know what are the types of diversion ? Is it true that a lot of kerosene is being mixed in petrol and is being sold through petrol pumps ? That is why the diversion is going on. So, what is the plan of the Government to check the diversion ?

Secondly, kerosene is being sold for the motor-cycles, three-wheelers, etc. That is why, it is causing air pollution in the cities. May I know whether the Government has any plan to check up this aspect ?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The diversion of kerosene is a social evil. Actually, to stop diversion, the Ministry is taking a lot of action. In fact, we have instructed the public sector companies to mix 'furfural' in the kerosene so that through the laboratory we can detect the malpractice or adulteration in HSD as well as petrol. At the same time, we do resort to surprise inspections and, at the same time, there is also a Joint Industrial Team. We have got mobile laboratories which are put into action for surprise inspection. Periodic sensitive check is being undertaken. We also resort to blue dyeing of kerosene. We have already introduced a delivery scheme in which the kerosene will be taken from our depot to the dealers premises. But many of the States have yet to implement this particular scheme. More than 16 States have introduced this scheme and other 13 States have not introduced this scheme.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that under the state-wise allocation of kerosene, Madhya Pradesh has been allocated 4,82,555 MT kerosene for the year 1995-96. Whereas Andhra Pradesh has been allocated more than 6 lakh MT, Tamilnadu more than 6,75,000 MT, Maharashtra more than 15,27,000 MT and Gujarat has been given more than 8 lakh MT Kerosene for the same period. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask Hon'ble Minister as to why the States having comparatively lesser population than that of Madhya Pradesh have been allocated more quota than Madhya Pradesh ? What are the reasons for allocating comparatively lesser quota to Madhya Pradesh which is not proportionate to its population ? I would like to know from the Hon'ble

Minister about the criterion for allocating this quota whether the Union Government would consider increasing this quota in view of the demand and requirement of Madhya Pradesh ?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the supply system is a historical one. Previously, for the past more than 50 years, there were private companies for which they were allocating supply according to their own whims and fancies. But, nowadays, we have rationalised the supply. During the rationalisation, we should adopt some sort of a system. Now, three per cent increase is there in each and every year. This year also we have adopted three per cent increase as far as the allocation to States is concerned. The increases have been higher in the case of States having lower *per capita* availability of kerosene and increases have been lower in the case of those States with higher *per capita* availability so as to reduce the disparity.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems as if Hon'ble Minister is not aware of the real position. He has simply read out in the House the information provided to him by the Secretary. The shortage of Kerosene is being faced throughout the country. State Governments are not allocated Kerosene as per their requirement. Where else can we raise this issue as nobody listens to us. The allocation of Kerosene made for our state is very less . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You do not have to answer him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I have not yet concluded my answer . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, you must listen to the answer.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you also.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, for instance, Orissa, which as the lowest *per capita* availability, has been given 5.2 per cent increase in 1997-98. So, over a period the allocation will be equal in all the States.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister towards the Annexure attached with the reply showing the details pertaining to allocation of Kerosene made to various states. It is stated herein that Bihar has been allocated

606924 MT Kerosene whereas West Bengal has been allocated 757987 MT kerosene. Through you, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister the criterion for allocation of kerosene. Whether the criteria is based on the population or the area or poverty of the state. If poverty is the criteria for allocation of kerosene, Bihar is far poorer than West Bengal. If population is the criteria, the population of Bihar far exceeds the population of West Bengal. I would like to know the reasons for lesser supply of Kerosene to Bihar. At the same time I would also like to inform Hon'ble Minister that there is a subsidy of more than rupees five per litre on kerosene even than kerosene is easily available in black-market. If you say that there is 100% control on kerosene then how is it available in black market. Whether the government is somehow involved therein or whether the government has failed to check it or whether the State Governments are not co-operating with the Union Government in this regard? Would the Hon'ble Minister kindly provide full information to the House in this regard?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the Deve Gowda Government is not handling it over to thieves. We are all duty-conscious. We are perfect in serving the nation. By the by, as far as the hon. Member's question is concerned, previously, in 1996-97 the *per capita* allocation was 7.5 kg. per annum. Now it has been increased to 7.86 kg. *per capita* per annum. . . . (Interruptions). In 1997-98 the allotment will be 6,79,329 MT. The monthly allocation will be . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Sir, the Minister concerned should give us information regarding the guidelines/criteria for sanction of kerosene supply to different States. . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I have already informed the House. . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Sir, the hon. Minister has already stated that population is the criteria. If so, the population of Bihar is higher than that of West Bengal but the kerosene supply is less. The hon. Minister may explain the position. . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I have already informed the House that the criteria being followed is 'population'. We are taking into account the population and allocating it. . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Bhavanaji, you can put the question. (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : There is a shortage of kerosene oil throughout the country . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : I do realise that it is an important subject relating to rural areas. I am agreeable to admit it for Half-an-Hour discussion.

#### Foreign owned Nuclear Plant

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\*163. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :  
SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has stated in an interview to a Japanese Newspaper Nihon Keizai Shimbun that India would permit full foreign owned nuclear plant;

(b) whether the Government have invited foreign investors to build up Nuclear Plants under a scheme providing 100 percent ownership of such likely foreign investors;

(c) whether Government have also worked out modalities for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether such a step of the Government is likely to affect the safety and secrecy of the existing Nuclear Power Plants; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) Prime Minister had stated that Government had agreed to 100% foreign equity in the power sector in general terms and not specifically in the nuclear power sector. While Government of India have not invited any offers in the nuclear power sector, it is open to specific offers and will decide its response on a case-by-case basis. Any offer of technical cooperation in the nuclear power sector would have to be considered on the basis of its technical suitability, economic attractiveness and the conditions attached thereto.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does Not arise.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, this question relates to sanctity and security of our country. May I know from the hon. Minister whether our country lacks technological efficiency, to support the build-up or to manage the nuclear power plants? I would also like to know what are the on-going nuclear power plants built up so far, with or without foreign technology and assistance.